

THE TAJI TIMES

Supporting the Rock in Southwest Asia



Vol. 1, Issue 3

Published for the Soldiers and Families in the Division Support Brigade

May 1, 2005



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marty J. Anderson

A CH-47 "Chinook" cargo helicopter belonging to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, hovers while riggers from the 129th Corps Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, connect a flat rack for a sling load operation. Maj. Leslie Caballero, from the Division Support Brigade, is a liaison officer for the 3rd Infantry Division and coordinated the team effort that brought six flat racks of repair parts to the 87th Corps Support Battalion, on Camp Taji, Iraq, April 15. The exercise trained the separate units to act in concert to transport supplies by means other than vehicle convoy.

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Providing provisions

By Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick
Division Support Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- "Up in the morning, 'fore day" goes the familiar song sung by many Soldiers during their morning physical training run.

"Eat my breakfast way too soon" is a later verse.

But who are those folks making sure our too-soon breakfast is ready when we are?

At Dining Facility #1, here, it may very well be the soldiers of the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

Sgt. Henry L. Durrah, a cook with the

632nd Maintenance Company, 87th Corps Support Brigade, DSB, said there are three shifts at the DFAC. The round-the-clock crews are responsible for serving four different meals per day, breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight chow, said the Shaw, Miss. native.

"We're here fulfilling our mission," said Pvt. Wheytoniah C. Brooks, a cook with 104th Transportation Company, 87th CSB.

Brooks, from Columbus, Ga., said their mission is to support the Soldiers with a quality meal.

"Soldiers may only have the opportunity for one meal a day in the DFAC," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy J. Marshall, a DFAC

(See DFAC, Pg. 4)

The Command Corner



Colonel Brian R. Layer
Brigade Commander

Stories I Tell Friends

As I get around and talk to you, I hear lots of stories about loved ones back home and your commitment to return home to them. I've been equally impressed with the support our families have shown from back home. Keep those cards, letters, and cookies coming!

As soldiers begin their R&R leave, I think it's important to talk about safety here and at home. No matter where we are, the decisions we make and the judgment we display—like driving safe speeds for the conditions and wearing seat belts—make a big difference.

I learned a valuable lesson early in my life. In my small town, we had a gentleman who was well known for his eccentric driving. Our country roads were posted at 65 mph and our village streets were 25 mph. He ignored them both. Despite a beautiful sports car, he would cruise along, buckled up, at well under the posted speed limit. One day I mustered the courage to ask him, "Why on earth do you drive so slowly?" He looked me in the eye and said, "I've never been in a hurry to get in an accident."

We've been provided the best equipment and armor protection in the world but that equipment changes the characteristics of our vehicles and requires every driver to exercise extra caution. We have a very aggressive safety program and a passion for standards because many of the risks we face here arise from our judgment and not from the enemy. We're committed to bringing all our soldiers home safely and I'd like to remind each of you that the choices we make do make a difference.

We should "never be in a hurry to get in an accident." Let's all get home safely together.



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks
Brigade Sergeant Major

I've been in the Army... I won't say how long. Sometime this past month was my birthday. I won't tell you how old I am, because it's not important. What is important is that, for the first time in my many years of service, I've seen a monthly birthday celebration done for enlisted Soldiers. I want to thank Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eunice Buffington, DSB, and Warrant Officer 1 Roberta Sheffield, Aviation Brigade, for planning and executing a spectacular event to honor the Soldiers' birthdays while in Taji.



Photo by Capt. Davie L. Wright

Pvt. Jonie Worthen, left, from the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Edward T. Brooks, cut the birthday cake at Dining Facility #1, here, April 15.

It was a great morale booster in which each celebrating Soldier received a small gift. In addition, the DFAC Soldiers did an outstanding job decorating **See CSM, Pg. 7**

Leadership is intangible, and therefore no weapon ever designed can replace it.— Gen. Omar N. Bradley

The Taji Times is published bi-weekly in the interest of the service members and their families of the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.).

The Taji Times is an Army funded newsletter authorized for the members of the U. S. Army, under the provision of AR360-1.

The views in *The Taji Times* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

DSB Commander
Col. Brian R. Layer

DSB Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Nathaniel R. Glover

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Editor/ Staff Writer, *The Taji Times*
Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Chadwick

396th Transporters on the Move

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alan B. Trotter
396th Transportation Company

On a hot, dusty, Friday afternoon in April, Soldiers of the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, prepare for yet another mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. The Soldiers of 396th are known as the "Spearhead of the Battalion."

The transporters' mission thru out the Iraqi theater varies from mission to mission. Class I rations thru Class IX repair parts and retro are delivered to various different units thru out the Gulf region. Many different Forward Operating Bases and divisional combat units depend on the 396th TC to keep them combat ready and fit to fight. The "Spearhead" Soldiers' customers include infantry, field artillery, and armor. The unit is also responsible for delivering supplies to combat support units such as Military Police.

"I'm extremely proud of the soldiers and the company as a whole," said Capt Nadine A. Terese, the 396th's company commander. "The Soldiers have clearly proven themselves to be both competent and confident in executing our mission here, and they are doing an outstanding job."

Terese, from Santa Monica, Calif., said the battalion's spearhead has a challenging and exciting mission serving as a 3rd Inf. Div. transportation company.

1st Lt. John Bowman, the platoon leader for the 396th's 3rd Platoon, knows those challenges and that excitement first hand.

The Staunton, Va., native has served as convoy commander for many of his platoon's missions.

"My primary mission as convoy commander is to manage the convoy," Bowman, a two-time Gulf War Veteran. "I dictate speed, ensure intervals are maintained, and most importantly, make sure the convoy is traveling in the correct direction."

Bowman said he is also responsible for making movement decisions once enemy contact is made, a vehicle disablement occurs, or a casualty evacuation is required.

Despite long hours planning convoy routes and battle drills, Bowman is satisfied.

"The most fulfilling part of my job since entering Iraq has been getting the opportunity to know my soldiers better," said Bowman.

Some of Bowman's Soldiers bring combat experience to the unit.

Staff Sgt. James Fields, Jr., platoon sergeant for the transportation company's 3rd Platoon, understands the dangers that his soldiers face on their various missions.

Fields, from Charleston, S.C., said the Soldiers are prepared for dangers they might face. **See Convoy, Pg. 6**



**PT
SAFETY**

WHEN RUNNING ON THE FOB:



- DO NOT RUN ALONE
- STAY ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD
- STAY ON THE PAVEMENT
- AVOID STEPPING ON OR KICKING DEBRIS LAYING IN THE ROAD
- WEAR YOUR REFLECTIVE SAFETY BELT

- DO NOT WEAR HEADPHONES
- DO NOT RUN CLOSE TO CONCERTINA WIRE
- STAY HYDRATED
- WHEN RUNNING IN FORMATION ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORMATION MUST STAY WITHIN THE RIGHT LANE

DSB Safety Office
Building 524
Phone: VIOP
242-6448

See...and be seen

Safety Officers
Capt. Mark Sheets
Sgt Maj. Bill Price



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick
Spc. Crystal C. Kirby, HHC, DSB, checks identification cards at the door during her force protection duty.

DFAC, Continued from Pg. 1

supervisor from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DSB. Marshall, from Fort Madison, Iowa, said it must be the best quality meal possible, served in a décor that is relaxing.

SFC Antwinette L. Reed, 94th Maintenance Company, 87th CSB, said it's her job to ensure the Soldiers get the best quality of food and plenty of it. As the rations noncommissioned officer in charge, she checks produce and makes certain no items are over stocked or outdated.

The appeal and function of the dining area has been aided by the forward operating base's Repairs and Utilities workers.

SFC Keith F. Russ, from the headquarters company and the NCOIC for the DSB cooks, said the R and U personnel work with the Kellogg, Brown and Root staff in making improvements around the facility. They have mounted televisions, built pastry cabinets and rewired the coolers that hold bottled

water and other beverages, to name a few.

KBR is contracted by the U.S. Government to manage the DFAC. They hire the civilian cooks, kitchen workers and cleaning crews.

Some Soldiers have experience in supervising civilian cooks.

"We're used to working with civilians," said Brooks, who deployed from Fort Benning, Ga.

Brooks said their job is to enforce the standard.

For many Soldiers, being a supervisor is a new role.

Spc. Harold S. Nicholson, 550th Area Support Medical Company, Fort Bragg, N.C., said when he left the Army in 1998, they were still using military cooks.

Nicholson, a Jacksonville, Fla. native who re-entered the active Army in September 2004, said he's new at monitoring civilian workers. He still has the urge to get his hands into the cooking. There are at least three Soldiers monitoring the line, said Nicholson.

Durrah, who spent four years in the Marine Corps as a cook, said during his previous experience in working

with civilians, they did the KP or clean up duties.

Reed, who hales from Saginaw, Mich. said she enjoys working with the civilians here.

"I did a little on the job training," said the Augusta, Ga. native.

Miller has been learning to create cakes and other desserts.

But the duty of these food service professionals doesn't stop with the kitchen.

Marshall, who is the force protection NCOIC, said the cooks put their Soldier skills to use also.

Every two weeks, the Soldiers pull guard duty around the facility, said Marshall. They have pulled guard duty before in training, but nothing with this intensity.

"The Soldiers see what's at stake," said Marshall.

They don't want to have to say, "because of my failure, somebody gets hurt," said Marshall.

Force protection for these culinary warriors is multi-faceted.

They protect the person, provide the provisions and perfect their profession all while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick
Pfc. Fatima L. Miller, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, stands duty as head count. The Augusta, Ga. native is one of the Division Support Brigade Soldiers assigned to Dining Facility #1, here.

From the Pulpit

By Chaplain (Maj.) Paul J. Yacovone

Remembering Mom

The waitress at the Java Coffee Shop saw a man in a nearby booth with a yellow wallet and was curious as to why he carried it. She mentioned to him that yellow was her favorite color. He told her that it was once his beloved wife's wallet. And now he keeps his coffee money in it, honoring memories of love that has endured through the years. The wallet holds much more than money. It holds matters of his heart. Although this man's wife has long passed from this life, she continues to walk with him. Now every time the waitress sees that yellow wallet, she is reminded of true love. She is reminded of love that has endured the test of time.

Recently, I was sharing with a good

friend about faithfulness and family. He's from the south. I'm from the north. As we were talking about our different backgrounds, we found similarities. Our mom's both died in May of 1983 at the same age of 51. As we were remembering our moms, and how much they meant to us, we started reflecting on how important our wives are to us and how much they would be missed if we lost them.

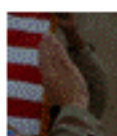
I shared that my wife is so much a part of me and my life. I belong to her and she belongs to me. She will always hold my heart. She is a great wife and a great mom to our kids.

By the way, the guy who carries his weekly coffee money in the yellow wallet to the Java Coffee Shop is my dad. After all these years, Mom is still missed and still remembered for all she did to make our lives better. When she passed suddenly, I did not have the chance to say good bye. I did not tell her how much she meant to me. I did

not thank her for all she did for me. I missed my opportunity.

On this Mother's Day, I will remember my mom, but more importantly, I will praise my wife for all she does for our children, our home, and our life together. I will even contact my mother-in-law and thank her. Why? Because mothers are invaluable. They do much more than give birth. They create an environment that causes a child to live well. They transform the house into a home where the family can thrive. Mothers care, feed, love, nurture and protect. They give quality and value to the continuation of life. Our sense of aesthetic values, sensitivity, tenderness and emotional stability normally are received from our moms...

Thank you, mom for all you did for me. Thank you, honey for all that you do for our family. Thank you, Lord for our moms!



Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following Soldiers for...
... Staying Army

226th Quartermaster Company

Spc. Cedrick Mole
Spc. Adrian Ray
Sgt. Tonya Baker
Sgt. Laura Royster
Staff Sgt. Charlie Andrews
Staff Sgt. Michele Duncan
Staff Sgt. Detrick Green
Staff Sgt. Lawrence Harris
Staff Sgt. Ethoia Lewis

396th Transportation Company

Sgt. Clance Corder
Sgt. Joseph Bether
Sgt. Jan Pierre

632nd Maintenance Company

Spc. Cheterevea Chambers
Sgt. Micheal Banegura

Sgt. Stevon Colston
Sgt. Mario Fernandez
Staff Sgt. Chad Ellison
Staff Sgt. Joel Heard
Staff Sgt. Richard Rivero
Staff Sgt. Scott Sieda

94th Maintenance Company

Spc. Matthew Al-Arif
Spc. Timothy Bargerhuff
Staff Sgt. Donnie Phillips
Staff Sgt. Gerard Revilla

HHD, 87th Corps Support Battalion

Spc. James Harder
Spc. Natanael Ubri
Sgt. Darrel Owens

Brigade Troops Battalion

Spc. Skylar McNeil
Spc. Kimberly Sawyers
Sgt. Baennette Harris
Sgt. Bobby Marlowe
Staff Sgt. Letia Ellis
Staff Sgt. Manuel Maisonet

Equal Opportunity Focus



by SFC Tanya Toussaint
Division Support Brigade
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Bldg 543/242-6106

**Equal Opportunity...
the Heart of Readiness!**

Last month, the Division Support Brigade celebrated Women's History Month. The program focused on the contributions made by Women in the Military and honored those who payed the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for our Freedom. Again, we were very fortunate to have several talented soldiers participate in the program, thanks for your support in making the program successful. Special thanks to CSM Liggon, DSB Deputy CSM, and SGM Farrow, DSB S3 SGM for the fabulous skit entitled "Change Gonna Come."

There will be two Ethnic Observances in May:

87th CSB will host "Days of Remembrance" for Victims of the Holocaust on 4 May, 1500 at Chapel 510. Anyone interested in participating, please contact SFC Merritt, 87th CSB EOR, miguel.merritt@us.army.mil.

DSB BTB will host "Asian Pacific Heritage month on 19 May. Anyone interested in participating, please contact SSG Allen, BTB EOR, remon.allen@us.army.mil.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tred Harris

Volunteers — From left to right, Sgt. Desa A. Macomber, Sgt. Chiquita Moore, 2nd Lt. Alisha G. Moore, Pvt. Emily D. Caraballo and 1st Lt. Monica A Woolfork added their talents to the Women's History Month celebration last month.

Upcoming Equal Opportunity observances

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| April/May | Days of Remembrance |
| May | Asian Pacific Heritage Month |
| August 26 th | Women's Equality Day |

Convoy, continued from Pg. 3

"The soldiers are equipped with the necessary body armor protection and are well trained on various battle drills and MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) related tasks," said Fields, an OIF I veteran.

Fields said that before each convoy, the transporters are given a safety brief by their convoy commander to alert them of any possible dangers they might encounter while out on the main supply routes.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan B. Trotter
Staff Sgt. James Fields, Jr., right, 3rd Platoon, briefs the transporters before heading out for the day.

These steps seem to instill confidence in the unit's Soldiers.

Spc Corey Moore, a driver who hales from Memphis, Tennessee, said she appreciates the way the missions are organized.

Moore, who served in OIF I, said she knows more about each mission this time than she did the first tour here. She enjoys what she does and the opportunities she has to see different things in Iraq.

Although the transporters of 396th Transportation Company are faced with many different challenges and mission difficulties, they remain dedicated to their command, unit and excellence while here in the gulf region.

Safety First!

Seat belts are not a luxury and are required by regulation, no exceptions.

All soldiers will wear seat belts when in a tactical vehicle.

Health Tips

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
'CONSERVING THE FORCE FIGHT-
ING STRENGTH'

By Capt. Randolph A. Leon-Pieve
Preventive Medicine OIC

Staying healthy while on R & R

While on R & R, DO...

Get any vaccines you are scheduled to receive on time and make sure they are recorded.

Protect yourself from sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy

- If you are in a monogamous relationship...stay that way.

- If you are not in a monogamous relationship...use condoms (or better yet, be abstinent)

Wear your seat belt and be safe.

Seek care if you don't feel well physi-

cally or emotionally.

- Don't forget to mention you are on R & R and get the visit documented.

- If you go for medical treatment, be sure to tell the provider you've been in Iraq.

- If you see a civilian doctor, call TRI-CARE at 1-888-363-2273.

- If your doctor needs information on a deployment-related illness (such as pneumonia, malaria, skin lesions, diarrhea, etc.) please contact The Deployment Health Clinic Center at 1-866-559-1627. You can also visit their website at www.pdhealth.mil.

While on R & R DO NOT...

Get tested for Tuberculosis (you will be tested when you redeploy).

Drink and drive.

Drink too much.

Additional information...

If you receive medical care during R & R, you should request a copy of the

documented episode of care, so that it can be placed in the deployment health record (DD2766) upon return to theater.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call Army One Source at: CONUS: 1-800-464-8107.

OCNUS: (Access Code) 800-464-8107 (free of charge to callers).

If Toll Free Service not available, Collect Calls: 484-530-5889.

There are also resources available on line at:

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

<http://deploymentlink.osd.mil>

<http://www.pdhealth.mil>

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

You can always refer your provider to the following website information regarding deployment related illnesses: <http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/deploy/info>.

Remember...It is important that you are aware of your health status not only during deployment to a theater of combat operations, but also in an R & R status during the deployment.

CSM, continued from Pg. 3

the room and providing a special cake, as well as music and refreshments to add to the party atmosphere.

It was a great time to break away from the daily routine and relax with friends. We all appreciate what these two food service managers do.

I want to thank all the DFAC Soldiers for their contribution to unit morale every day. Their tireless efforts to provide quality meals in a comfortable atmosphere give us a little

bit of home away from home.

It's important that all leaders take advantage of opportunities to let our Soldiers get away to events like these birthday parties, even if it's for just a few hours. They work hard under tough conditions. If we want to get their best effort, we need to give them the chance to recharge their batteries.

I charge you to continue to support these efforts and help boost the morale of our troops.

**CAMP TAJI
AUTHORIZED SWIM WEAR**

| Female | | Male | |
|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AUTHORIZED | UNAUTHORIZED | AUTHORIZED | UNAUTHORIZED |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

NOTE: MALE SWIM WEAR MUST HAVE A STRING IN THE WAIST. ARMY PT SHORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MODIFIED ARE NOT AUTHORIZED.

**The Camp Taji Pool
will open May 1.**

**Operating hours are
from
5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.**



Promotions



**Congratulations to the Soldiers
on achieving the next rank...**

HHC, BTB

Spc. Hoan Nguyen
Spc. Hilaria Taylor

87th CSB

HHD

Pfc. Jeremy Hersh
Spc. Allen Pinckney
Sgt. Paul Adair
Staff Sgt. Renae Simmons
Capt. Justin Follansbee

104th TC

Pvt2 Craig Ash
Pvt2 Philip Hunt
Pvt2 Christopher King
Pvt2 Edward Lynch
Pvt2 Matthew Patton
Pvt2 Johnathon Tinney
Spc. David Brumfield
Spc. Anthony Hardy
Spc. Reginal Jackson
Staff Sgt. Raphelp Jackson
Staff Sgt. Orando Jones

226th QM

Pfc. Timmy Charles
Pvt2 Ilka McKinney
Pfc. Nathaniel Morse
Spc. Vertulia Hodges
Sgt. Tara Lewis
Sgt. Edward Miller
Sgt. Craig Overholt
Staff Sgt. Charlie Andrews, Jr
Staff Sgt. Lawrence Harris

24th OD

Pvt2 Kristina Anderson

396th TC

Spc. Calvin Brown
Spc. Joshua Flaherty
Spc. Adam Greniger
Sgt. Miguel Candelaria
Sgt. Audrey Chestnut
Sgt. Anthony Johnson
Sgt. Jessica Lasure
Sgt. Felicia long
Sgt. Dion Parson

Staff Sgt. Lenell Brown
Sgt. Nathan Thomas
Sgt. Jan Vazquez

632nd MT

Pfc. Jose Cardenas
Pfc. Bethany Mears
Pfc. Benjamin Johnson
Spc. Brian Bradford
Spc. Gabriel Campos
Spc. Marc Fortier
Spc. Jonathan Rodriguez
Spc. John Zubek
Sgt. Keith Hambright
Sgt. Paris Johnson
Sgt. Jerome Lane
Sgt. Candice Thompson
Staff Sgt. Jose Batiz

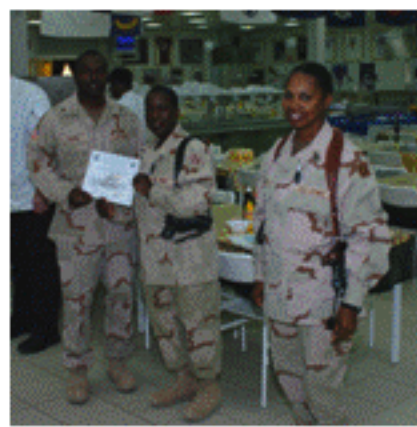
94th MT

Pfc. Melissa Bibbins
Pfc. Daniel Lillegaard
Pfc. Jabari McGee
Spc. Daniel Brown
Spc. Demonte Harrell
Sgt. Maxie McCall
Sgt. Treamon Lacy
Sgt. Timothy Stadick
1st Lt. Vanessa Parker
Capt. John Gubitosi

Dining Facility Certificates of Achievement



Pvt. Wheytoniah Brooks
104th TC, 87th CSB



Sgt. Tony George
316th TC, 87th CSB



Spc. Crystal C. Kirby
HHC, DSB



Pfc. Fatima L. Miller
HHC, DSB

Send the Taji Times home

From:

FREE
MAIL

To:



Spc. Michael E. Renkiewicz
632nd MC, 87th CSB